REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in the case. Claims 1-4, 7-15, and 17-20 are amended. No claims are canceled or added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiner Refai and Supervisory Examiner Jaroenchonwanit for the interview of January 3rd. This amendment is intended to capture the discussions of that interview, specifically to clarify how the platform automatically deploys processing area networks by selecting processors from a pool (i.e., plurality) of processors and under program control configures the network topology and virtual storage space of the virtual processing area network.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-20 under §112, ¶2 as outlined in sections 2-4 of the Office Action. The claims have been amended to address these rejections. With regard to the rejection of claims 2 and 13 it is respectfully submitted that the phrase "addressed entities" is clear because the preceding claim language referred to "messages addressed to entities." The "addressed entities" refer to the entities that were addressed in the messages. Similar arguments apply to the rejection of claims 10 and 20 with reference to the "identified processor."

All claims were rejected as anticipated by DeKoning. DeKoning is directed to storage area networks and specifically to "sticky" exclusive ownership of data volumes for a period of time after each transfer.

In contrast, the claimed invention is directed to a platform and method of automatically deploying at least one virtual processing area network, in response to software commands specifying (i) a number of processors for a virtual processing area network, (ii) a virtual local area network topology defining interconnectivity and switching functionality among the specified processors of the virtual processing area network, and (iii) a virtual storage space for the virtual processing area network. Among other things the platform or method is responsive to the software commands and selects, under programmatic control, a corresponding set of computer processors from the plurality of computer processors and programs the processors and internal network to establish the specified network topology. It also programs the virtual storage

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space for the virtual processing area network. In this fashion, the deployment is completely automated and human beings are not required to manual cable power lines, network connectivity, physically move and deploy server cabinets etc. as discussed in the interview and explained in the specification.

No fees are believed to be due with this reply; however, please charge any fees which may be due, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

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